PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19 are pending in the present application. In the above amendment,

claims 8-10 and 15 have been amended, and claims 18 and 20-21 have been cancelled without

prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action mailed November 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35

U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson (US Publication No. 20030165155). The

Examiner further rejected claims 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by

McKenna (US Patent No. 6,594,498). The Examiner also allowed claims 1-17 and 19.

While not necessarily acquiescing to the aforementioned art rejections with regard to

claims 18 and 20-21, and to further advance prosecution of the above-referenced patent

application, Applicants have cancelled claims 18 and 20-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants have further amended claims 8-10 and 15 to add a period at the end of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-17 and 19 are in condition for

allowance.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are

patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned

at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 30, 2004

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